

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

MARCH 4, 2014

On February 19, 2014, the Governor announced emergency drought legislation which will immediately help communities deal with the devastating drought conditions affecting our State, including accelerating funding to increase local water supplies.

In the Los Angeles area, our region’s water supply comes from many sources, including imported water from the Colorado River and Sacramento-Bay Delta; highly treated recycled water; ground water; and local stormwater captured from rain events like we recently experienced.

For decades, Los Angeles County has captured stormwater through its operation and maintenance of a system of 14 major dams and reservoirs, and numerous debris dams and spreading grounds. On average, this infrastructure captures and adds 210,000 acre-feet of stormwater along with 45,000 acre-feet of highly-treated recycled water to local groundwater aquifers each year. This groundwater provides a third of the region’s drinking water supply.

Public Works and its partner agencies have been taking many steps over the years to prepare for drought conditions such as those we are currently experiencing. Through the Integrated Regional Water Management process, Public Works and other water management agencies in Los Angeles County have joined together to plan for the region’s water supply and other water management needs in an integrated manner, inspiring agency collaboration and partnership. These efforts have enabled the establishment of a more sustainable water supply for the region.

- M O R E -

MOTION

MOLINA \_\_\_\_\_

RIDLEY-THOMAS \_\_\_\_\_

YAROSLAVSKY \_\_\_\_\_

ANTONOVICH \_\_\_\_\_

KNABE \_\_\_\_\_

Page: 2

However, our ability to further enhance water supply reliability faces tremendous regulatory hurdles and fiscal challenges. For example, although much of the flood control and water conservation infrastructure in the County is interconnected, portions that are owned and operated by the Corps are not authorized to optimize water conservation. Maintenance and enhancement to any portion of the system is subject to extensive state and federal regulatory permitting requirements that may take years to obtain.

Additionally, the benefits of several recent enhancement projects at County dams and downstream spreading grounds are in jeopardy due to the impacts of sediment accumulation at reservoirs in the wake of recent fires. Sediment reduces the storage capacity of the reservoirs for capturing stormwater and could affect the ability to release water from the reservoirs.

The current drought is a reminder that we must continue to do everything we can to conserve stormwater and make every drop count.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors Direct the Department of Public Works to:

- Expedite the maintenance and construction of stormwater capture projects to further increase the sustainability of the region's locally available water supply.
- Work with the United States Army Corps of Engineers to take every measure to maintain and operate their facilities to maximize the capture of stormwater, and to revise and streamline their regulatory permit processes to allow for other stormwater capture maintenance and enhancement projects to be implemented more quickly.
- Continue to work with our Federal, State, and local partner agencies to operate and maintain , flood control and groundwater recharge facilities to optimize stormwater capture and recharge while embracing opportunities for increased environmental stewardship; and

Direct the County's legislative advocates in Sacramento and Washington D.C., in coordination with the Department of Public Works, to take appropriate actions to ensure passage of Federal and State legislation which increases funding and streamlines regulatory process for our stormwater capture, flood control, and groundwater recharge facilities and programs.

# # #

MDA:evo  
stormwatercapture030314